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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Photographic Equipment	DATE DISTR.	1 September 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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1. Photographic equipment and materials to be found on the Bulgarian market are almost exclusively of foreign make. Cameras are mainly of Soviet and German make, such as Soviet Kiev and Zorki (copies of Contax and Leica respectively) and original Contax and Leica. The materials for negatives are exclusively East German, mostly Agfa and Kodak, the latter with inscription in German that it is produced on the Kodak lines, but this "Kodak" product is far inferior to the original one. Photographic paper is almost exclusively Hungarian, of Forte manufacture; however there is also a Bulgarian product, Behar, from a factory located in the vicinity of Sofia, but its quality is most unsatisfactory. It is planned to establish another factory for photographic paper at the Kranso Selo suburb of Sofia. The chemicals are all imported from East Germany. In 1952 materials for color photography were imported, for the first time, from Czechoslovakia and Germany, but work with these has not gone beyond the experimental stage.
2. The USSR and Germany supply cinematographic materials in large quantities. The Department for Cinematography is directly under the Council of Ministers. The Bulgarian studios have recently tried to produce color films, but have not succeeded as yet and large quantities of film have been spoiled.
3. In 1953 the Sofia Polytechnic purchased from a Swiss firm an electronic microscope of West German manufacture. It is reported to have an enlarging capacity of 200,000 times.

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